

Eastern Illinois University The Keep

1996

Press Releases

6-3-1996

06/03/1996 - CEPS Receives Professional Accreditation.pdf

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1996

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "06/03/1996 - CEPS Receives Professional Accreditation.pdf" (1996). 1996. 150.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1996/150

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1996 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

96-151

June 3, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CEPS RECEIVES PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) has been accredited under the new, performance-oriented standards of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the agency responsible for professional accreditation of teacher education.

Eastern's CEPS is one of 54 colleges of education that received either initial or continuing accreditation by NCATE's Unit Accreditation Board in its most recent round of decisions.

Although Eastern has emerged over the last 100 years as a comprehensive multi-purpose institution, the preparation of educators, teachers, administrators and school services support staff continues to be one of its major educational missions. Eastern graduates the second highest number of educators in the state.

"It takes a total university effort to develop and maintain an excellent teacher education program. It is a credit to the faculty, staff, administration and students at Eastern that the program was granted continuing accreditation by NCATE," said

-more-

Elizabeth Hitch, dean of CEPS.

The 1995 accreditation standards emphasize teacher performance. They focus on what teacher candidates should know and be able to do, and expect candidates to demonstrate specific skills. Multiple types of performance assessment are expected throughout the program of study, and candidate competence is assessed prior to the completion of the program.

The accreditation standards incorporate the model state licensing principles developed by a task force of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Thus, standards for teacher preparation in accredited schools of education are compatible with emerging state licensing expectations.

The standards require Eastern's CEPS to use current and established research to create a rationale for what is taught in each program. Students and faculty alike are expected to understand and be able to express that rationale. Teaching candidates should be able to explain the instructional decisions they make from a base of knowledge about teaching and learning.

Colleges seeking NCATE accreditation under its redesigned system must meet high standards in areas including quality of faculty and graduates and program excellence. On-site visits, document review and accreditation decisions are all carried out by professionals from the education community, including teachers and teacher educators as well as education policymakers and school specialists.

"This is a salient achievement for our college, and it resulted because of the

-more-

ADD 2/2/2/2

CEPS

tremendous efforts made by our faculty in creating an exemplary program for preparing teachers. The reaccreditation by NCATE is an affirmation of that fact," said Mahmood Butt, chair of the task force for NCATE accreditation.

NCATE is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation as the only accrediting body for schools, departments and colleges of education.